## NATIONAL COLORED LABOR CONVENTION

CONVENED AND HELD IN

Washington, D. C., December 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1869.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

According to a resolution adopted by a Sate Labor Convention of Maryland, held July 20. 1869, calling a Na ional Colored Labor Convention, to be holden in Washington, December 6, 1869, a large number of the most prominent colored men of the country assembled at Union

League Hall at noon on that day.

The Convention was called to order by Isac Myers, Esq., President of the Maryland Sate Labor Union, who read the call. In a few ertipent and timely remarks he stated the object

On motion of Mr. Myers, George T. Downing, sq., was elected temporary Chairman, tho, for the honor conferred in a few well-chsen words. After which Rev. J. Sella Martin invoked the Divine blessing to rest upon the roceedings in an appropriate prayer.

On motion of Hon. John R. Scott, of Florda, Hon. Henry S. Harman, of Florida, was chsen temporary Secretary.

On motion of William U. Saunders, of Nevada, a committee on credentials, consising of one from each State and Territory reresented, was appointed, and ordered to retir. During the absence of the committee Ion. James H. Harris, John M. Langston, and Ilchard Trevellick, Esq., addressed the assemblge. The Committee on Credentials reported the number of accredited delegates as follows: Massachusetts, 4; Connecticut, 1; Rhode Island, of Columbia, 57; North Carolina, 14; Georgia, 3 ; Alabama, 1 ; Florida, 8 ; Louisiana, 6 ; fennessee, 3; Ohio, 8; Michigan, 2; Nevad, 1; California, 1; Texas, 2; Missouri, 1; Virgnia, 10; West Virginia, 2; South Carolina, 5twenty-three States and the District of Cohmbia, represented by 203 delegates.

and adopted. It was moved that the report of the fom-Convention. Adopted.

The report of the committee was receved

On motion of Abram Smith, of Tennesee, a Permanent Organization, was appointed and World. of the Anti Slavery Standard, addressed the assemblage at some length.

The Committee on Permanent Organization reported Hon. Jamés H. Harris, of North Carolia, to be President of the Convention.

VICE PRESIDENTS-Alabama, James T. Raper; Connecticut, Charles McLynn; California, G. Barbadoes; Delaware, Caleb Milburn; listrict of Columbia, Colin Crusoe: Florida. E S. Francis; Georgia, James M. Simms; Nichigan, G. B. Stebbins; Missouri, J. Milton Terner: North Carolina, William T. J. Haves: New Jersey, Bishop J. P. Campbell; Ohio, Ames Poindexter: South Carolina, T. J. lackey: Texas, Thomas Powell; Virginia. Villiam H. Lester ; Louisiana, J. M. Menarl ; larvlend, A. Ward Handy; Massachneetts, J Sella Martin : New York, William T. Butler: levada, William U. Saunders: Pennsylvania, ( L. C. Hughes: Tennessee, Abram Smith; Vest Virginia, Peter Hodge; Rhode Island,

I H. Douglass, District of Columbia. ASSISTANT SECRETARIES-Henry S. Harman. Iorida : G. S. Woodson, Pennsylvania. The report of the Committee on Permanent Oganization was unanimously adopted; and, a motion of William U. Saunders, of Nevada, committee of three was appointed to conduct divered a few appropriate remarks, thanking te Convention for the honor conferred. After wich, on motion, the Convention adjourned

lesbyterian Church. EVENING SESSION.

At 73 o'clock the Convention was called to der by the President. The Committee on Credentials presented the mes of additional delegates; which, upon stion, were added to the roll.

A resolution was offered and adopted proding for the appointment of committees on eucation, finance, business, address, platform, lmesteads, labor, national organ, railroads ad travel, and constitution and organization. Hon. Sayles J. Bowen and Hon. A. M. Clapp adressed the Convention.

Prof. A. M. Greene, of the District of Colubia, offered a resolution tendering a vote of tanks to President Grant for his recognition othe claims of colored men. Referred. Mr. Allen Coffin offered a series of resolu-

The Convention then adjourned to 10 o'clock AM. Tuesday, December 7. SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

'he Convention assembled, pursuant to adjornment, at 10 o'clock A.M., and proceedings oned with prayer by Rev. M. B. Derrick : Bhop J. P. Campbell in the chair.

Ir. William Perkins, chairman of the Commiding the levying of a tax of two dollars ple un delegates to defray the expenses of the outwo dollars and inserting one dollar, and

Seventy thousand Radicals send greeting. Wch was read amid applause.

Rerred under the rules.

Rirred under the rules. r. Greene offered a resolution providing for thippointment of a committee of five, which, wi the secretaries, should compose a Commise on Printing, to secure the authentic Puication of the proceedings of the Convenlioin one or more of the daily journals, and thesaid committee be authorized to negotiate witsuch publishers to retain such matter and trafer it into pamphlet form. Rules sus-

peted, and adopted. I Hayes offered a resolution calling on Corress to establish a national school system up the fund erected by dues to colored sollie: referred.

e Chair announced Standing Committees, ls lows : Education, labor, address, women's ab, business, platform, organization, printingtemperance, co-operative labor, public an, railroads and travel, and bank savings. Simms, of Georgia, submitted a resolutiospproving that portion of the President's

me ge which relates to the political condition andmission of that State. Rules suspended, (motion, the Chair appointed a Committee

on riculture. Hayes offered a psolution endorsing the lored Men thus far made to establish a

atal journal in the interest of the colored

pede of the United States; referred under the J. Isaac Myers, Chairman of the Commit-Platform, reported the platform; which sead, adopted, and ordered to be printed:

Issac Myers, from the Committee or

## NRW



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WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1870.

of the Convention, and it was read; after which the Convention adjourned to 71 P.\*M.

Whereas labor has its privileges no less than its duties, one of which is to organize, and, if need be, to furnish reasons for its organization ; therefore.

Resolved. That labor was instituted by Al mighty God, as a means of revealing the rich endowments of inanimate creation to be understood and used by man, and that labor is a duty common to, and the natural heritage of, the right to labor in any field of industry for which ed and restricted only by the laws of political

Resolved. That capital is an agent or means used by labor for its development and support, and labor is an agent or means used by capital. for its development and general enhancement, and that, for the well being and productiveness of capital and labor the best harmony and fellowship of action should at all times prevail, that 'strikes' may be avoided and the workingman convinced that justice is done him, and that he s receiving an equivalent for the labor performed

Resolved. That there should be a frequent interchange of opinions upon all questions affecting alike the employer and employed, and that co-operation for the purpose of protection ing cars; the bureau to have power to devise importance, value and power. of the Convention, advising the delegate to and the better remuneration of labor, is a sure | ways and means to create a fund sufficient to lay aside prejudice and act in harmony and and safe method, invading no specific rights, but is alike be acidal to the whole community, and tends to lift the working classes to higher achievement and positions in society, presents upon taking the chair, thanked the assembage | the necessity of, and increases the desire to give their children a more liberal education, induces the practice of economy in the distribution of their earnings, and accelerates the accumulation of wealth, with all the happiness that must necessarily ensue therefrom.

Resolved, That the Government of the United States, republican in form, is a Government of the people, for the people, and by the people, and that all men are equal in political rights and entitled to the largest political and religious vention in pamphlet form. liberty compatible with the good order of society; as, also, the use and enjoyment of the fruits | bia, of the Committee on Savings Banks, subof their labor and talents; and that no laws mitted the following report: [The report will should be made by any legislative body to the be found on page 3.] advantage of one class and against the interest | John M. Langston, from the Committee on and advantage of the other, but that all legisla- Address, submitted the following, which, after tion should be for the benefit of all the people some discussion, was read, adopted, and ordered of any particular State, and of the United States, to be printed: 4; New York, 10; New Jersey, 2; Pensyl- to the end that loyalty to and love for the instivania, 8; Delaware, 28; Maryland, 22; Disrict tutions and the Government of the United States should be a paramount consideration with all the | The Relations of the Colored People to American

citizens thereof. Resolved. That we return our thanks to Divine Providence for the immense natural resources ted and united, constitute its strength. And in may work in the printing office, whether private that are within the geographical limits of the so far forth as the leading men thereof realize or governmental, in the factory, the foundry, the United States of America, whereby the application of diligent and patient labor is capable of able to raise the masses of those identified with river, the steamboat, in the warehouse, the store. producing from our earth all the necessities for them in condition to rank and influence socially wherever labor is to be done and an able and numan existence and the comfort of man, and, and legally. from its vast and unbounded supply, has become Among the colored men of this country there we may claim a place without distinction as to ment, emancipating itself from every national suitable persons to represent this organization ment, emancipating itself from every national labor Congress called to mittee on Credentials stand as the roll of the Convention. Adopted the roll of the Convention. Adopted the roll of the Greatest moral agent known to man, in that is no small amount of industrial capacity, native our color or former condition, since all that can it affords a refuge for the oppressed of all lands, and acquired. All over the South and smoon be demanded by the employer is ability faith. to improve their condition, and, by the influence the colored people of the North, workmen in ful performances of the contract made, and the of our institutions, elevate them to their proper gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, brick, mortar employee reasonable treatment and the compencommittee composed of one from each State standard of manhood, its rebounding influence is and Territory represented, as Committe on to destroy the tyranny and despotism of the Old

cotired. During its absence Aaron M. Pewell, Resolved, That we feel it to be a duty that we owe to ourselves, to society, and to our country to encourage, by all the means within our reach. industrial habits among our people, the learning of trades and professions by our children without the fact that all labor is honorable and a sure road to wealth; that habits of economy and temperance combined with industry and education are the great safeguards of free republican institutions. the "elevators of the condition of man, the motive-power to increase trade and commerce, tion from the heir apparent of the English several States in the interest of our employers. and to make the whole people of this land the wealthiest and happiest on the face of the globe.'

Resolved, That regarding the labor of the country as the common property of the people, that no portion should be excluded therefrom, because of a geographical division of the globe, in which they or their forefathers were born, or on account of statutes or color, but that every man or woman should receive employment according to his ability to perform the labor required, without any other test; that the exclusion of colored men and apprentices from the right to labor in any SECRETARIES-William U. Saunders, Nevada; department of industry or workshops in any of the States and Territories of the United States, by what is known as "Trades Unions," is an insult to God and injury to us and disgrace to humanity; while we extend a free and welcome hand to the free immigration of labor of all nationalities, we emphatically deem imported contract Coolie labor to be a positive injury to the M. Harris to the chair. The President elect | working people of the United States, it is but the system of slavery in a new form, and we appeal and South might be mentioned; New Orleans, to the Congress of the United States to rigidly Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, Raleigh, Richenforce the act of 1862, prohibiting Coolie imti 74 o'clock to meet at Fifteenth Street portation, and to enact such other laws as will St. Louis, Leavenworth, Chicago, Detroit, Indibest protect free American labor against this or any similar form of slavery.

Resolved. That we recommend the establishment of co-operative workshops, land, building, and loan associations among our people as a remedy against their exclusion from other workshops on account of color and as a means of furnishing employment, as well as a protection Let us take the case of the freedmen in one of all its fullness, being as sacred as the sovereignty against the aggression of capital, and as the easiest | the States as presenting a fair average of their | which we have pledged as its sure guaranty. andshortest method of enabling every man to condition in this regard-and we name North procure a homestead for his family; and to accom- Carolina. We offer the words of the general plish this end we would particularly impress the greatest importance of the observance of diligence in business, and the practice of rigid Lands, as especially significant in their bearing is concerned; and notwithstanding, in an importeconomy in our social and domestic arrange-

Resolved, That we regard the use of intoxica-ting liquors as the most damaging and damnable habits practiced by the human family; that we denounce the infamous practice planters have They are nearly six to one as compared with and our utter inability to compel a full and just of drenching their employees with this poisonous | white mechanics. The census gives less than recognition of our claims for larger and more tas of a general character; which were also drug, (with or without cost,) intended to stupify 20,000 of the latter, while there are more than certain compensation for services rendered, and their brain and incapacitate them to know the | 60,000 of the former. All the mechanical occu- a larger opportunity to follow those diversified condition of their accounts, the value of their pations are represented by them; blacksmiths, pursuits of industry which in New England and labor, and to rob them of their sense and feelings of humanity; that we appeal to our people to discountenance the use of intoxicating liquors painters, shipbuilders, stonemasons and brickbecause of their effect in shortening life, and be- layers are found among them in large numbers. Is it practicable to so organize our industrial cause they are the great cause of so much misery | There are also among them many pilots and forces and direct our labor as to compel the and poverty among the working classes of the engineers. Nor are they behind any class of wealthy classes, the land-holders and planters, country. We advise the organization of tempe- workmen in the skill, taste and ability which are to recognize and admit our power and respect rance associations as a necessary instrument for usually exhibited in their several trades. Of our claims accordingly? mee on Finance, presented a report recom- the speedy and permanent elevation of our peo- the pilots and engineers running steamboats on The importance and difficulty of answering

Civention: which was amended by striking the greatest blessings that the human family en- two most trustworthy pilots in North Carolina ciate. In our case, however, it is indeed doubly joys, and that we earnestly appeal to our fellow- are freedmen; one of whom is running a steam- difficult and vexing, by two considerations, which limited or remote, to pass unimproved; that the Albermarle sound, and on the Chowan and tive action by Congress in our behalf. In the t this point are a telegram was received, dad Jacob Mississippi, and addressed to the Convention:

The former is paid \$15 per the Convention:

The former is paid \$15 per the Convention:

Allow marks of the Convention the Convention to the Convention the Convention to the Convention tablishment and maintenance of the Freedmen's because of his superior ability. The engineer dition of freedom of a hatred which shows itself Bureau, and to Major General O. O. Howard, on the boat run by this pilot, is also a freedman, in demonstrations of outrage and bloodshed in Commissioner, Rev. J. W. Alvord, and John M. | and is said to be one of the best in the State. r. William T. J. Hayes, of North Carolina, Langston, Esq., General Inspectors, for their offed a preamble and resolutions calling on co-operative labors in the establishment and command the usual wages paid others of like are to be protected, immediate and positive ac-Cgress for the immediate recognition of the paid good government of hundreds of schools in the paid army of Cuba as a belligerent power. Southern States, whereby thousands of men, upon their own responsibility, and doing it to In the second place, by reason of our too long women, and children have been, and are now, the satisfaction of their employers. One of the r. L. H. Douglass, of the District of Co- being taught the rudiments of an English educa- most interesting sights which it was my good far as our masses are concerned, ignorant of the lusia, presented a petition from the Engineer's tion. The thanks of the whole people are due fortune to witness while in the State, was the many benefits resulting from co-operative labor. Prective Union of Brooklyn, New York. to these philanthropists and friends to the benevolent institutions of this and other countries colored shipbuilder, with his gang of colored for the means and efforts in money and teachers | workmen. furnished, whereby our race is being elevated to the proper standard of intelligent American Carolina is in greater or less degree true of the Of the good purpose of the Government to procitizens, and we appeal to the friends of progress | same class in the various States of the South : and to the citizens of the several States to con- for in the general degradation of labor, produced tinue their efforts to the various Legislatures and fostered by slavery as it formerly existed, until every State can boast of having a free-school system that knows no distinction in dis-mechanical as well as agricultural, and so beaccount of race, color, sex, creed, or previous region.

condition: and Resolved, That we recommend a faithful obe- field-hand, the agricultural laborer of the South, millions and their posterity. dience to the laws of the United States, and of is one of no small significance, since the two the several States in which we may reside; that great staples which distinguish Southern industhe Congress and the courts of the United States | try cannot be grown successfully without his | ment is practicable, and by which their highest have ample power to protect its citizens. All labor. This is abundantly proved by the fact greviances, whether personal or public, should that attempts which have been made since the We would, therefore, have the be carried to the proper tribunal, and from the war by Northern capitalists to grow cotton and stand that acres, however vast, in plantations, lowest to the highest, until justice is granted; sugar on Southern plantations upon plans sug- however immense—uncultivated, are profitless, that armed resistance against the laws is treason gested by their Northern experience, and con- like principles promulgated through party platagainst the United States, and ought to be summarily punished. We further appeal to the colored workingmen to form organizations throughout every State and Territory; that they may be able in those districts far removed from courts of efforts at fortune-making in growing these fluential and effective through party agency. justice to communicate with the Bureau of Labor stables are ready to testify to be established by the National Labor Union. and that justice may be meted out to them as tice is more liberally distributed; that loyalty and love for the Government may be fostered and encouraged, and prosperity and peace may per-vade the entire land.

At 71 o'clock the Convention assembled, and

ISAAC MYERS, HENRY LEE, HARRY S. HARMON, REV. Jos. P. EVANS. EVENING SESSION.

day, December 8. THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS. Convention met at 10 o'clock A. M.; prayer

by Bishop Campbell: J. H. Harris in the chair. The Finance Committee announced amount resolution, \$143; expenses, \$271; deficit, \$128. G. S. Woodson, of Pennsylvania, introduced human family; each person having a natural a resolution requesting the Governors of States having Republican Legislatures to call their he or she is capacitated, the right to be govern- Legislatures together and urge the ratification of the fifteenth amendment. Rules suspended,

and passed. .

L. H. Douglass offered a resolution relative to the appointment of a committee of five to draft a plan for the organization of unions among colored men to secure the recognition of colored mechanics and laboring men in the workshops of the country. 'Rules suspended, and adopted.

J. J. Wright, of South Carolina, from the Committee on Railroad Travel, made a report prosecute a case to test the virtue of the civil rights bill. Referred.

Mr. Myers, of Maryland, offered the follow-

ing, which was adopted : Resolved. That the President and Vice President of this Convention be a delegation to wait United States.

The Committee on Printing reported that arrangements had been made to secure an accurate report of the proceedings of the Con-William J. Wilson, of the District of Colum-

ADDRESS.

Industry.

The laboring class of any community, educa-

just ground that the genius and art displayed beregard to sex: to educate and impress them with that perhaps the most accomplished gunsmith among the Americans is a black man, an ex-

> of a slave's genius. Here, too, it may be mentioned, with no infinest sculptoresses is of African descent; the aid in the accomplishment of its mission of former distinguished especially as giving life liberty and law, honor and justice, Christianity and utterance from canvas to several of Milton's and civilization.' matchless poetical creations in the "Paradise Lost," and the other as making the spirit of the all other intelligent and honest citizens must. mond, Nashville, Austin, Helena, Louisville, anapolis, Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, the capital of the United States furnish illustra-

> tions in proof of this statement. But it may be claimed that these are isolated inspector of the schools for freedmen, under the strength, as far as labor of an agricultural, mechon this point. In one of his reports for 1868, in ant sense, the freedmen are the laborers and

> "More than one-third of the entire colored population of North Carolina are mechanics. of our weakness in our disorganized condition, gunsmiths, wheelwrights, millwrights, machinists, carpenters, cabinetmakers, plasterers, to enlighten, elevate, and bless the people.

What is thus said of the freed people of North

trary to the method of culture adopted by the colored laborers of the Sonth, have proved abortive and disastrous in well night every instance, as too many men, shipwrecked in means by their more than political principles can be made in-

that the general ignorance of the ex-slave is capital, and that well directed, intelligent and though they lived in the large cities, where jus- forgotten, nor is any one to presume therefrom united industry brings national wealth, as it that slavery is to be regarded as having been a brings individual competence and independence. school with special claims to consideration by reason of its peculiar adaptability to impart extraordinary and valuable instruction in the art | conflict with capital, but seeking rather, so to | fornia, William H. Hall; Delaware, A. E. Veof cotton and sugar culture. All that is intended and cure the just and fair treatment of each by the Florida, E. S. Francis; Georgia, J. F. Long; forty-five years as the laborer in cotton and sugar-fields, has given the negro, though denied school, church and civilizing and elevating influences, such knowledge of the soil and its improvement, the nature and treatment of each by the other, we found it in reason and moderation. Speaking comprehensively, while the interest and welfare of labor are cared for fully, no unfluences, such knowledge of the soil and its improvement, the nature and treatment of the cotton seed and plant, the tillage and growth in the following method. In other words, nator Wilson, James T. ton seed and plant, the tillage and growth

Rapier, and others; after which it adjourned sugar-cane; the seasons and their usual and still the mutual and dependent relations of labor vada, Robert H. Small: Ohio, J. A. Warren to reassemble at 10 o'clock A. M. on Wednes- abnormal effects upon crops; the agricultural and wealth we would neither ignore nor rudely Pennsylvania, Robert Adger; Rhode Island. implements and their proper regulation for use, disturb. The laborer needs and must have the

It will not be denied by any intelligent person that the rough, unlettered farmer of Ohio collected from delegates under the contribution and Illinois, who has had fifty years experience in the cultivation of corn and wheat in those States, can furnish better and more valuable information with regard to the soil, its productiveness, and the advantageous tillage of these Western staples, than Greeley or Emerson, although the former writes on topics of political economy, while the latter announces and expounds theories of philosophy and morals.

"With a voting power under our present and just system of reconstruction of seven hundred and fifty thousand electors, and an actual laboring force of three millions, out of four millions and a quarter of hardy sons and daughters of now affluent, can testify that this saying is not toll, native to the soil, inured to the climate, altogether figurative. people generally, and knowing by an experience more valuable, perhaps, than the learning of the recommending that a bureau be created to books, the methods of agriculture, the different consider the matter relative to colored persons systems of mechanical labor, and the common them by inconsiderate and ill-advised action, on and less complicated affairs of commerce, we being compelled to purchase first-class tickets, and less complicated affairs of commerce, we are an element in the industry of the country of late a command written in the necessities of the

country in all things pertaining to her material and moral well-being, we seek a better and asunder." Thus married in interest we would broader opportunity to gain knowledge in the have this bride and groom go forward multiplyfields of agricultural, mechanical, commercial, artistic, and professional labor, and this knowledge we would energise, direct, and make more which show the one a tyrannical lord, or the largely effective through the enlightening and other a menial cringing slave. on the President of the United States and tender | sanctifying influence of education. Our mottoes the congratulations of this Convention on behalf are liberty and labor, enfranchisement and eduof the colored laborers and mechanics of the cation! The spelling-book and the hoe, the hammer and the vote, the opportunity to work and to rise, a place on which to stand, and to masses of the country, while repelling others be and to do, we ask for ourselves and children as the means in the use of which, under God, we are to compass these achievements which furnish the measure, the test, and justification of our claim to impartial treatment and fair dealing. "That this end may be reached, we ask, first

of all, that trades be opened to our children, and that they be given the benefit of a just and equitable system of apprenticeship; in the second place, that for every day's labor given we be paid full and fair remuneration, and that no avenue of honest industry be closed against us: and thirdly, since we believe that the intelligence, the elevation, and happiness of all people depends in no small degree upon the diversity of their indusdrial pursuits, we ask that we faithful workman is wanted we conceive that than in politics. Hence our industrial move- are hereby authorized to appoint one or more and acquired. All over the South and among be demanded by the employer is ability, faithand the arts, are found doing skillfully and at sation promised. Hence, while we condemn that usual wages the most difficult tasks in their seve- spirit which in its proscriptive regulations denies ral departments of labor. Nor are these work- us industrial opportunity and the fruits of honest men generally engaged by white men who, su- toil, we rejoice in all those evidences of prosperintending their work, can claim upon any pective good which we and other laboring classes long to the employers. As illustrating this Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tenstatement, it may be appropriately mentioned nessee, Georgia, and Alabama. promising that slave of North Carolina, who not long since education, and our purposes made doubly earnest received special notice from the Prince of Wales, by considerate treatment and the prospect of to whom he presented a pistol of his own make, just compensation, shall all be given to the deand received in return, as a token of considera velopment of the industrial resources of our

throne, a magnificent medal of rare value. It is "Recognizing ourselves as native Americans, perhaps true, too, that the most finished cabinet and knowing ourselves as members of the great maker and blacksmith of our country is of the American body politic, while we ask the recognisame class. And it is said to be the fact that | tion and protection due any and all of like pothe most valuable invention given us by the litical condition, as in the past, so in all time to South, the cotton plough, (the patentee of which come, with unfettered limb and manly endeavor formerly resided in Mississippi,) was the creature we shall labor with our white fellow-countrymen, native and naturalized, in mine, on farm, in workshop, in foundry, in factory, everywhere, considerable pride, that one of the finest land- to develop the material and industrial powers scape painters of our country, and one of the of our land, making wind, water, and earth to

And while this is our purpose, and feeling, as noble Andrew of Massachusetts to breathe and the value of national honesty and honor, and the speak through the life-like lips and features of responsibility of each citizen and every class of plaster. Individual instances of colored persons citizens for its sacred maintenance; while we engaged in commerce as wholesale and retail demand that all contracts made in the interest dealers in many of the larger cities of the North of the Government be liberally and fully met, according to their terms, we promise, to this end, more than a tithe, if need be, of the fruits of our industry, as our influence and votes, that our national obligations receive no detriment. As we tolerate no political party which favors repuseveral of the largest cities of New England, and diation, so will we co-operate in no movement, industrial or other, which proposes or countenances it. In all laboring men's movements, as in political organizations, we hold as binding and and exceptional cases. Let us, therefore, con- inviolable the sentiment that the national honor sider this matter from a broader standpoint. and the national faith should be maintained in

Notwithstanding all these things, said with regard to our purposes of loyalty, the elements of our Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned anical, commercial, artistic, and other character speaking of the freed people of North Carolina, mechanics of the South, as matters stand, necessarily so, supplying the bone and muscle of the industry of that section, we are not insensible our Northern States generally have done so much

This brings us to a question of vital moment

the different rivers of this State, many of the this question every intelligent person friendly to Resolved. That we regard education as one of very best are colored men. It is said that the the laboring masses of the world must apprecitizens to allow no opportunity, no matter how | boat on Cape Fear river, and the other across | make it proper for us to ask and expect legislamany parts of the South to such an extent as to "The colored mechanics, when employed, require, if our interests, industrial and other,

through education we more thoroughly comprehend the value of combined effort on the part chise. Rules suspended, and adopted. of the laborer to secure consideration and wealth. tect us, and, as far as need be, put within our words of encouragement and sound advice, reach the opportunity and means of education, our treatment since our emancipation affords tion. reasonable assurance.

We have attempted the solution of this quessemination of knowledge to its inhabitants on came the artisan as well as field-hand of that tion, in the organization of our National Bureau of Industry, with none other than anxious and The consideration that the freedman is the earnest solicitude for the welfare of our working

We would unite all these masses upon a principle of common interest, whose accomplish-

We would, therefore, have the laborer underwithout the approval of the popular will. It is not to be inferred from this statement | We would teach that labor is the parent of

While our organization is one which springs

nor upon the other hand, is the wealth of the Brooks employer of such intrinsic worth as to be valua-

the muscle and energy of labor.
"The Irishman would starve if not employed by the railroad company," said a brainless and heartless agent thereof. "But," replied the sagacious and philosophical son of the Green sle, when thus addsessed, "there would have een no railroad had God not made the Irishman to dig and shovel." Whether the Irishman be indispensable to railroad building, the principle here indicated is correct. It is digging and shoveling which make capital valuable; and the wealthy of this and other lands, once poor but

Such are the interests of capital and labor, so mutual and intertwined in the great aims to be reached, the enterprises to be carried forward for the highest good of mankind, that to disturb race, and which may be fitly interpreted in the "But for our own good and the welfare of our words of the injunction with regard to wedlock." asunder." Thus married in interest we would ing their blessings in the earth, their happy relations in no wise disturbed by contentions or acts

In our organization we make no discrimination as to nationality, sex, or color. Any labor movement based upon such discrimination and embracing a small part of the great working because of its partial and sectional character. will prove to be of very little value. Indeed such a movement, narrow and divisional, will be suicidal, for it arrays against the classes represented by it all other laboring classes which ought to be rather allied in the closest union, and avoid these dissensions and divisions which in the past have given wealth the advantage over | ter, and should be interpreted fairly and equit-

We would have "the poor white man" of the South born to a heritage of poverty and degradation like his black compeer in social life, feel that labor in our organization seeks the eleva- the Executive will compel Government contraction of all its sons and daughters; pledges its tors, as well as its own officers, to carry out its nited strength not to advance the interests of a provisions fully. pecial class; but in its spirit of reasonableness and generous catholicity would promote the welfare and happiness of all who "earn their bread the sweat of their brow."

With us, too, numbers count, and we know the maxim, "in union there is strength," has its significance in the affairs of labor no less the National Labor Union, now being formed, partial sentiment, broadens and deepens ts foundations so as to rear thereon a superthe altar of common interest the Irish, the negro and the German laborer; to which, so far from being excluded, the "poor white" native of the South, struggling out of moral and pecuniary death into life "real and earnest," the white mechanic and laborer of the North, so long ill taught and advised that his true interest is gained by hatred and abuse of the laborer of African scent, as well as the Chinaman, whom designg persons, partially enslaving, would make in plantation service of the South the rival and petitor of the former slave class of the counry, having with us one and the same interest. re all invited, earnestly urged, to join us in our ovement, and thus aid in the protection and onservation of their and our interests.

In the cultivation of such spirit of generosity on our part, and the magnanimous conduct which prompts, we hope, by argument and appeal addressed to the white mechanics, laborers and trades unions of our country, to our legislators prejudices now existing against us so far as to teachers, who, at the cost of many sacrifices and secure a fair opportunity for the display and remuneration of our industrial capabilities.

We launch our organization, then, in the fullest confidence, knowing that, if wisely and udiciously managed, it must bring to all conerned, strength and advantage, and especially wealth, education and the ballot, made strong which will witness the entire South dotted over are just, impartial and catholic.

EVENING SESSION

At 75 o'clock Rev. J. Sella Martin called the Convention to order. A resolution endorsing the National Freedman's Savings Bank as a place of deposit was

Hon. William D. Kelly, of Pennsylvania; W. J. White, of Georgia; and Mrs. M. A. S. Carey, of Michigan, addressed the Convention; after which it adjourned.

FOURTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

ment. James H. Harris in the chair. Bishop Loguen, of New York, opened the proceedings George Myers, of Maryland, chairman of the

by sections. This committee also reported officers for the Labor Union, which report was referred to a committee composed of one from each State and Territory represented.

On motion of George T. Downing, of Rhode Island, the time of the next annual session was fixed for the second Monday in December, the place to be fixed by the Bureau of Labor.

At this juncture General O. O. Howard appeared in the Convention, and, upon being introduced, expressed his sympathy with the purposes of the Cenvention, and set forth the necessity of earnest co-operation, especially with reference to agricultural pursuits in the South. He said that capital and labor should go hand in hand, and wealth, health, and happiness would be the gratifying result.

William H. Lester, of Virginia, offered a oreamble and resolutions calling upon Congress apply the test oath to members elect of the Legislatures of his State, and to award vacant seats made by ineligibility under this test to

Mr. Rapier, of Alabama, submitted a report from the Committee on Homesteads, which esolutions setting forth the condition of the the outgrowth of the nation's liberality. colored people of his State, with especial reference to the laboring classes. He contended that what they needed most was "the power behind the throne"-i. e., the elective fran-

Aaron M. Powell, of the Anti-Slavery Standard addressed the Convention in eloquent which was acknowledged by marked approba-Bishop Campbell, from the committee ap

pointed to nominate officers for the Labor

Union, announced that the committee was ready to report through Mr. Saunders, of Nevada. The following report was submitted and

unanimously adopted: President-Isaac Myers, Maryland. Vice President-George T. Downing, Rhode sland. Treasurer - Colin Crusoe, District of

Recording Secretary-William U. Saunders, Nevada. Corresponding Secretary-Louis H. Douglass,

Executive Committee Board of Labor-Isaiah C. Wier, Pennsylvania; Anthony Bowen, District of Columbia; George Myers, Maryland; J. Sella Martin, Massachusetts; G. B. Mabson, North Carolina; John H. Butler, Maryland; Mrs. M. A. S. Carey, Michigan; C. M. Hamil-

ton, Florida.

L. Rapier; Connecticut, Charles McLynn; Cali-

Auxiliary Vice Presidents-Alabama, James

\$2.50 a year in advance: 5 Copies for \$10.

John T. Waugh: South Carolina, J. H. Ramey as to make him, above all others for the time compensation which service brings. Without it Tennessee, Albert Somerville: Texas, William being, the successful cultivator of these pro- he cannot secure either the necessaries of life or T. Clarke: Virginia, William H. Lester; West the means of support and educate his children. Virginia, J. W. Jones; Wisconsin, William P.

Mr. J. A. Ware, of Ohio, introduced a resoble above and beyond its use, in making effective lution recommending economy in the use of spirituous liquors and tobacco. Rules suspended, and adopted.

EVENING SESSION.

Messrs. J. H. Rainey, of South Carolina Bishop Campbell, of New Jersey, Lowry, o Tennessec, G. P. Rourk, North Carolina Bishop J. W. Loguen, of New York, and John Watson, of Ohio, addressed the Convention; after which it adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock A. M., Friday, December 10th.

FIFTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS. Convention met pursuant to adjournment at

10 A. M., J. H. Harris in the chair. Rev. J. Sella Martin offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

Resolved, That, as a Labor Convention, it is our bounden daty and high privilege to express the satisfaction we experience in the statesmanlike sentiments of President Grant, as expressed in his message, with regard to reconstruction in Georgia. Labor to be successful, needs protection, opportunity, and just laws. This success can be achieved only through laws made by those who understand the wants and disabilitie of the people for whom they legislate.

Resolved, That the Convention tender to President Grant its high appreciation of his fairness of mind, firmness of purpose, and fear ssness of utterance in seeking to secure to us, y appropriate legislation, those legal safeguards of our right to labor and to the fruits of our industry, without which the name of freedom s a mockery. Mr. F. G. Barbadoes, of Cal., offered the

ollowing: Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Con-

vention, the law making eight hours a legal day's work in all labor performed for the Government is wise, just, humane and economical in charac-Resolved. That this Convention is unalterably opposed to any repeal or modification of the said law, but that, on the contrary, they hope

After discussion the resolution was adopted: Mr. J. H. Harris, of N. C., offered the fol-

owing, which was adopted: Resolved, That the executive officers and the bureau of labor provided by the Convention of following: n the International Labor Congress, called t meet in Paris next September, being the fifth avow all responsibily for the sentiments ex structure capacious enough to accommodate at annual reunion of the representatives of the in- pressed here to-day by Senator J. W. D. Bland. dustry of the civilized world.

Rules suspended, and adopted. Hon. Mr. Hamilton, of Florida, offered the following resolution:

Resolved by the National Colored Labor Concention. That every possible legitimate measure be taken by the laboring masses of the country, conjunction with this convention, to overthrow that cruel barrier to our progress as a race the monstrous land monopoly of the South.

Rules suspended, and adopted. Prof. G. B. Vashon, of D. C., read a long report on education, concluding with the fol-

wing resolutions: Resolved, That under the providence of an Almighty-loving God, the members of this Convention will always hold in grateful remembrance the several educational associations and their hundreds of auxiliaries throughout the North and West, that labored in behalf of the freedmen, together with that noble band of

f mental and moral culture. Resolved, That the system of schools originated by all the agencies referred to in this report, is, to the members of this Convention, the subject of grateful regard as leading them to o the colored American as its earliest fruits trust that it will continue to be prospered in the that power which comes from competence and good work until it attains to that perfected state through a union whose fundamental principles with normal schools complete in all needful educational facilities, from which normal schools, as central, will radiate other schools of inferior grade, to light up every nook and corner of the and with the beams of useful knowledge.

The report was accepted and the resolutions adopted.

Aaron M. Powell, of New York, offered a resolution requesting Congress to authorize the appointment by the President of a land commissioner for the purpose of purchasing eligible land for homesteads, the title thereof to be held until by instalment, without interest, it shall have been paid for, when the money so employ-The Convention met pursuant to adjourn- ed, not to exceed \$2,000,000, shall be refunded to the National Treasury. Passed.

J. Sella Martin, of Massachusetts, offered the following: Whereas the American Missionary Associacommittee on Constitution and By-Laws pre- tion is the principal national society working in sented a report, which was taken up and adopted an educational direction among the colored laborers of the South, expending at the present

time more than \$350,000, and employing more than 500 teachers and missionaries among these Resolved, That this Convention tender its hearty thanks to, and express its full confidence in, this association and other kindred societies, and calls upon the colored working people of

tributing to their funds. Rules suspended, and adopted

Mr. Martin offered the following: Resolved. That this Convention regards with great solicitude the efforts which are still being made to transfer the public domain to the hands of private speculators through a continuance of edgement of the important position for the nethe unfortunate policy of donating the public gro to occupy. In conclusion he advised his lands to railroad and other corporations. We earnestly call upon Congress to guard the sacred | and their race, and be respectful to good men. rights and interests of the people in the public tion : and we especially and earnestly protest against any renewal of the lapsed land grants in the Southern States, or any other appropriation of these lands except for the occupation of them

in limited quantities by actual settlers. Resolved. That we earnestly invite Congress to consider whether some measures cannot be adoprecommended the organization of a permanent ted to facilitate the settlement of Southern colbureau for the purpose of securing homesteads | ored and other laborers upon the unoccupied to the colored people of the South. Adopted. lands, believing that a more independent and William P. Powell, of New York, submitted | therefore a more intelligent citizenship would be

> Rule suspended and adopted. Abram Smith, of Tennessee, offered the fol-Resolved. That this Convention endorse the

Tennessee Manual Labor University Industrial School, devoted to the elevation and improvement of youth in industry, art, and mental improvement. Rule suspended and adopted. Mr. Mackey, of South Carolina, presented a

condition of the colored laboring people of the colored man would come from South Carolina South, asking that measures should be taken to as a United States Senator, as the colored peolesson the labor and increase the wages and de- ple of his State were becoming tired of letting mand, which could be done, giving the colored

The memorial was then adopted. munication from the National Executive Com- and novel position, but he would bring all his mittee of Colored Men, expressing satisfaction | energies to bear to make the proposed bureau with the present National Convention, and of industry a success. He told his hearers

lands in that section.

lowing, which was adopted : Resolved. That the members of this Convention cheerfully bear testimony to the untiring zeal of the National Executive Committee of dition. colored men in the performance of its important | Some of the white men employed now in the trust, and therefore tender to it their hearty thanks for the great good which it has already

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Resolved. That this Convention recommend to the Executive Committee to elect a delegate to epresent the interest of the labor movement in aid Labor Congress. Adopted.

J. R. W. Leonard, of New York, read a communication from twenty-five colored printers of New York, congratulating the craft on Mr. Lewis H. Douglass, a member of the craft, saving secured all his rights in the District of Columbia, in holding a position in the Govern-

nent printing office. Mr. J. Woodland, of New Jersey, introduced Resolved. That this Convention recommend to

ur people to abstain from the use of tobacco. whisky and dealing in lottery policies, and the noney be spent in purchasing homesteads. Passed.

Mr. Samuel Lowery, of Tennessee, offered the following:

Resolved. That this is a Convention of the inlustrial citizens, composed largely of colored people, in a national council: and whereas this organization is formed for the education and levation of the masses of our countrymen in

he Southern States, Resolved. That delegates now returning will call State Conventions and organize industrial and literary associations in counties, as far as possible, and act in harmony with the Bureau brough the State organization of labor organized by the Convention, and fully ratify the objects and acts of this body, and place their State in full harmony with the Bureau in its purposes.

L. H. Douglass, of the District of Columbia, ntroduced a resolution referring all unfinished ousiness before the Convention to the bureau ; which was debated, and finally withdrawn by consent, Mr. Douglass giving notice that at the hour of 4 P. M. he would move that the Convention adjourn sine die. The Finance Committee reported that there and been collected for the use of the Convention

on hand, \$133.74; and pledges unpaid, \$105. The report was accompanied with a resolution making an assessment of \$5 on each county in very State and Territory represented in the Convention. The report was accepted, and the esolution laid over. A vote of thanks was tendered to the reporters

\$289.84; expended for use of hall, &c., \$155.90;

of the Republican, Star, and Chronicle for their full reports, daily, of the proceedings of the Convention. J. Milton Turner, of Missouri, offered the

Resolved, That this Convention distinctly dis apologizing for the negro-hating, preconstructed rebels of Virginia in the matter of test-oath for office-holders in the State of Virginia.

for the use of the Convention. The unfinished business was then referred to the labor bureau about to be established in 'this city; and at 5 o'clock P. M. the Convention adjourned sine die.

It was ordered that three thousand copies of

the proceedings be printed in pamphlet form

PUBLIC MEETING. After the adjournment of the Convention, at o'clock a meeting was called and opened by Rev. Sella Martin, when Mr. George T. Downing read a series of resolutions adopted in Philadelphia, endorsing Wendell Phillips and Charles

Sumner, and expressing contempt for the Ameri-

can Colonization Society. John T. Waugh, of Khode Island, addressed the meeting, and gave a history of his early life perils, bore to that suffering class the blessings in this District, and of his later experience in Rhode Island and other Northern States, during which he paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Phillips and Mr. Sunner, for their steadfast endeavors in behalf of the colored race.

Rev. Sella Martin next addressed the meeting on the topics that claimed the attention and action of the National Labor Union, hoping that all done by that body may prove successful and redound to the good of the laboring masses throughout the country. Major M. R. Delaney was introduced, and

addressed the meeting on the subject of the colored race as an element of industry and political economy, claiming that the freedman, though without education, had been taught within the last few vears that labor was the source of wealth, citing that California, with untold mines of gold, would have been poor California to-day, were it not that labor worked

and developed the mines. The colored people were frugal, economical, and industrious. He stated that the products of New York in the way of milk, cheese, and butter were of more value than all the cotton produced in the South. Tobacco was a great production in a money sense; the tax in Virginia last year on that article being \$3,000,000. Tobacco, cotton, rice, and sugar, the great staples, were the product of negro labor. Before the war the South produced 4,500,000 bales of cotton a year, but now about 2,500,000 bales is the product; but the enhanced value and demand of that staple at home and abroad

makes the crop more profitable to the planter than before the war. In Great Britain there were 10,000,000 perthe country to support these benevolent labors | sons (being three-fifths of the population) enby sending their children to school and by con- gaged in cotton factories, the product of negro labor. It was the negro, he said, that controlled the wealth of the South, and ruled Wall street to-day, and the gold market of the country. All the coffee in the universe, except Mocca and Java, is raised by negroes, and the speaker inquired whether this fact was not an acknowlhearers to be united, and be true to themselves

> L. Wimbush, of S. C., followed in a few remarks, saying that the colored people of the South are too poorly paid for their labor in consideration of the vast wealth that capital receives at their hand. At the end of the year the laborer is as poor as at the beginning, so poorly is he paid. The colored people in the South are industrious, and not the lazy vagabonds as represented by rebels, and they should be better paid. The speaker then gave a detailed account of Ku-Klux operations in South Carolina, saying that the most prominent men in Charleston were the officers, but that the colored people were learning how to Ku-Klux, and he (the speaker) was organizing a militia regiment that would soon drive them

There were many of the gang endeavoring to join the Republican party, but it was no use, and the poor white trash of women in his section are now running after the meanest and blackest of negroes to marry them, which he attributed to the fact that these women were beginning to learn that they are free. Conmemorial to be sent to Congress, relative to the cluding, he said, that at the rext election a the white men have their own way in everypeople homesteads in the Southern States, of thing.

which there was 42,000,000 acres of public Mr. Isaac Myers, of Md., being called on, said he accepted the position of President of the national organization with great diffidence L. H. Douglass, of D. C., presented a com- of his ability to discharge the duties of his new promising co-operation with them in the inter- that in Baltimore about 250 colored men band ed together, after being discharged through Wm. U. Saunders, of Nevada, offered the folwhite influence from the ship-yards, and purchased one of their own at a cost of \$10,000, and to-day the yard employs 250 colored men and 55 white men, and is in a presperous con-

vard are the same persons who helped to kick the colored men out of the yards of Baltimore. accomplished in various matters touching the He would not endorse the Political Workingwelfare of the colored people of the United men's Union of this country, because the Republican party had done too much for his R. M. Adger, of Pa., offered the following : race, and no colored man in the land should Resolved, That it is the desire of the mechan-as and laborers of Philadelphia that the Con-its object was to break down the great Reput ERA. lican party

Corm a Democratic party. Sox No. 31 WASHINGTON Ston address

ising square in this paper.

Any space less than ten lines is charged the rate of a full